



H.Res. 379 – A Resolution Congratulating Nicolas Sarkozy on his election to the Presidency of France and Welcoming President Sarkozy on the Occasion of his Appearance Before a Joint Meeting of Congress

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 379 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Ted Poe (R-TX) on May 7, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs but was not considered.

H.Res. 379 is expected to be amended and considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on November 5, 2007, the summary below reflects H.Res. 379, as amended.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 379 congratulates Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy on his election to the Presidency of France and welcomes President Sarkozy on the occasion of his appearance before a Joint Meeting of Congress.

**Note: On Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. on the floor of the House of Representatives, His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of the French Republic will address both chambers of Congress.*

BACKGROUND

According to the French Embassy in the United States, Nicolas Sarkozy was born on January 28, 1955 in Paris, France. He was educated as a lawyer, and served as the mayor of a suburb of Paris from 1983 – 2002. As mayor he also served concurrently in various posts in the French government including: Minister for the Budget (1993-1995), Minister for Communication (1994-1995), and Government Spokesman (1993-1995).

On May 7, 2002, Mr. Sarkozy was appointed as France's Minister of the Interior, a post he served in until he was appointed as France's Minister of the Economy on April 1, 2004. Mr. Sarkozy was again appointed as France's Minister of the Interior on June 2, 2005. In March of 2007, Mr. Sarkozy resigned his government post in order to run for the office of President of France and on May 6, 2007, in the second round of the French

Presidential elections, Nicolas Sarkozy was elected as the President of France for a five year term with 53.06 percent of the vote, and he took office on May 16, 2007.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) notes that, “since 1981, France has had only two presidents...In 2002, presidential terms were shortened from seven years to five years; there are no limits on the number of terms a president may serve.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Congressional Research Service Report: [RL33957 - Elections in France, 2007](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Matt Lakin at (202) 226-2302.